



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Volume XX-04

Number 08

March 15, 2004

# Inside Wallops

## New State SATSlab Added to Small Aircraft Technology Partnership

A NASA/FAA/industry partnership working to develop technologies and new operating capabilities that could enable a Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS) has gained more support from aviation enthusiasts in the Midwest.

faster and farther, anywhere and any time.

These technologies would allow:

— higher volume operations at airports that don't have control towers or terminal radar

— pilots to land safely in low visibility conditions at minimally equipped airports

— increased single-pilot performance

— SATS aircraft to integrate seamlessly into the complex national airspace



NASA Langley Research Center Graphic

The establishment of a SATS consortium in Indiana brings to six the number of state or regional groups that are members of the National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, which has teamed with NASA and the FAA to make air travel readily accessible to more people.

SATSlabs in Florida, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina and Virginia are already researching technologies to improve general aviation.

Researchers at NASA's Langley Research Center and at the SATSlabs are developing integrated airborne systems, cockpit displays and operating procedures for advanced four to ten passenger aircraft.

These technologies could help planes safely fly into underutilized rural and suburban airports, including many airfields that don't have radar or air traffic control towers.

About 93 percent of people in the U.S. live within 30 minutes of one of these airports.

SATS research is focusing on four operating capabilities that may help permit people and goods to travel

For more information about the Small Aircraft Transportation System, please check the Internet at: <http://sats.nasa.gov>

Robert Goddard launched the world's first liquid fueled rocket on March 16, 1926.



Photo by James Mason-Foley

**A presentation on the facility master plan was given by Code 200, Management Operations Directorate, to approximately 100 employees during a coffee in the Range Control Center on March 11. The plan was developed to meet the facility requirements to carry out the Wallops mission plan for the next 20 years. The plan is available to employees on the Code 228, Facilities Management Branch, web site: <http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~code228/>**

## Wallops Shorts In the News

**Eastern Shore News**  
"NASA Visitor Center Events"

## SpaceNews

"NASA Picks Student Experiments"

## Eastern Shore News

"Spaceport Business Coming to Area"

John Hickman, NASA Sounding Rocket Program Office, (SRPO), and Glenn Maxfield, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract (NSROC) were interviewed by a reporter from the Kwajalein newspaper, the *Hourglass*, about activities for the EQUIS II mission during August and September 2004.

Betty Flowers, NASA Public Affairs Office, (PAO), and Patti Larsen, Clemson University, were interviewed live on the Armed Forces Network, Kwajalein Atoll, about the EQUIS II mission.

## On the Road

John Hickman, SRPO, and Glenn Maxfield, NSROC, gave a presentation on sounding rockets and the *Waverider in the Sky* during an assembly of approximately 160 middle and high school students at Kwajalein High School on March 9.

Betty Flowers, PAO, conducted a teacher workshop for pre-k and elementary school teachers at the George Seitz Elementary School, Kwajalein, on March 3.

**February Exceptional -  
It's Leap Year  
The Weather is Average**

February was just an average month temperature wise. The average temperature was 38.2 degrees, which is 0.5 degrees above the monthly norm of 37.5 degrees.

The month started out with the coldest reading of the month, 18 degrees, recorded on the morning of February 1. Conversely, the warmest temperature recorded was on the February 29 with a reading of 64 degrees. No record temperatures were set or equaled.

With a little less than 2 inches of rain falling on 7 days, we were 1.07 inches below the norm for February of 3.02 inches. The greatest 24-hour rainfall measured 1.11 inches on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. No measurable snow fell during the month, although we did see traces on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Winds exceeded 29 mph on 9 days with the strongest gust of 38 mph being recorded at 1:21 p.m. on February 3.

With March well underway, we can look forward to spring's arrival. Look for daytime highs in April to start out in the upper 50's and increase to about 66 degrees at the end of the month. The average morning low temperature in April begins near 39 degrees and finishes the month with morning readings of 48 degrees.

The record high for April occurred in 1990 with a reading of 93 degrees on April 26. The record low is the 24 degrees recorded on April 1, 1969. April showers occur on 10 days during the month with an average total of 2.78 inches. Although April brings warm temperatures, we can still have a freeze or two during the month. The latest freeze for us was on April 25, 1994.



The first day of spring is March 20. It also is known as the vernal equinox. This means it is the exact day separating winter from spring.

Actually, to be more precise, it is the first day of spring north of the equator - in the south it is the first day of autumn.

Equinox is a Latin word that means "equal night". This is the time of the year (and there are two days in each year) during which the day and night are of equal length.

**Marketing Yourself  
Effectively**

Tuesday, March 30, 2004  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Building E-2 Training Room

**Description**  
Do you have trouble selling yourself? Is it difficult to talk about yourself in an interview or when networking? If so, this workshop will help you assess your marketability and how to present yourself effectively to a new employer.

**You will learn**  
How to tell people who you are and what you can do, describe yourself without appearing to be overly self-important, and learn the art of selling yourself by talking about your past experiences, skills, and strengths.

**How to register:**  
Contact Pat Dworske on x2394 or Tracey White at (301) 286-7823 to reserve a seat. The Goddard Training Request Form (17-117) is not required. Contractors are welcome to participate.

**St. Patrick's Day  
Celebration**

**Wednesday, March 17  
4:35 p.m. in Building F-3**



St. Patrick used the shamrock leaf to symbolize the Trinity, and today many people wear a shamrock to commemorate Saint Patrick's Day.

The luck of the Irish. Want to be lucky this St. Patrick's Day?

Follow this advice:

- 1. Find a four-leaf clover.
- 2. Wear green (so you don't get pinched).
- 3. Kiss the blarney stone.
- 4. Catch a Leprechaun if you can.

Come be Irish for awhile!

**For Rent**

3 bed 2 bath home in a private country location. 1500 sq. ft. home on a one acre lot with central heat and air conditioning and one car attached garage.

Recently remodeled with all new features. Rent \$1500 a month, call Rico at 410-957-0000.

**Women's History Month  
— March 2004**

By Sean O'Keefe

This month, NASA joins with other agencies and organizations in honoring the accomplishments and achievements of women throughout our nation, as we celebrate National Women's History Month.

We are fortunate that outstanding women have helped inspire hope and possibility throughout the first century of flight.

Like NASA's own mission "to inspire the next generation of explorers," the theme of this year's observance, "Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility," gives us the opportunity to celebrate the milestones of visionary women explorers.

During Women's History Month we are reminded of pioneers like Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean; Bessie Coleman, the first African American — male or female — to earn a pilot's license; and the "Mercury 13," a team of groundbreaking aviators from the 1960s who paved the way for the first female astronauts in the 1980s.

Throughout NASA, a number of extraordinary women play an integral role in our agency's success.

They serve as scientists, engineers, astronauts and administrators, making significant contributions to NASA's mission and new vision for space exploration.

Currently, pioneering women help lead our Mars Exploration Rover team, direct our efforts to understand the effects of space travel on the human body and remain at the forefront of NASA's Return to Flight preparations.

I encourage you to participate in planned programs and activities commemorating Women's History Month at NASA and in your communities.

As women continue to reach historic achievements, we look to them to inspire not only our nation, but also the next generation of explorers.

**Inside Wallops** is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: [www.wff.nasa.gov](http://www.wff.nasa.gov)

Editor: Betty Flowers